No, Johnny said. Fuck off.

*****

The old Vinylphile said he wanted to look at those records he was looking at yesterday. Johnny said he couldn't find them. They were scattered all over the store, or sold.

Already? the man seemed surprised. He wanted to check the box of slightly water-damaged records that Johnny had stashed under the china cabinet just inside the door; he thought maybe those were the ones....

They weren't. Johnny started to explain that you couldn't look at the same record twice, you couldn't even listen to it, but he stopped himself. What was the philosophical point?

He found six that looked familiar, that he thought he wanted. He wanted a bargain, because they were old.

Johnny reminded him. That's what was good about them. Whoever heard of a Vinylphile wanting NEW records?

*****

Citizen Hearse was in Friday evening and spent an hour looking through old photo albums. Johnny supposed he was discovering something of their previous owner's spirit.

Johnny had looked through the same albums and concluded that something bad had happened to their owner, a man not much older than himself (if he was still alive).

Johnny found diplomas, report-cards, bank statements. It was possible that he he'd altered his identity and discarded all these traces of his past, but putting the traces up for auction, wouldn't have been the best way....

Citizen Hearse sat down heavily in the square, maroon-upholstered chair, just inside the door. He said he thought he was dead, and hadn't had a good death. His wedding pictures....

Yes, Johnny completed his thought; you never saw him smile....

Citizen Hearse said it was as if he couldn't believe he was getting married.

Johnny said he had found a lot of self-help books about coping with illness, and death; he'd also found a book from Alcoholics Anonymous, autographed by many well-wishers. He thought someone close to him, died first...

Citizen Hearse thought he despised himself, so he killed himself....

*****

RIP Beautiful Joel

You're more than just a PIECE to me. You're a racist homophobic JEWISH QUEEN!

*****

On the Milquetoast Broadcasting Company. Whimpy Soother's Mo(u)rning Show